

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

### **REGIONAL LAW, SAFETY AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (RLSJC)**

Thursday, March 31, 2011

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

#### **King County Homeless Issues~ Bill Block**

Bill Block, Project Director for the Committee to End Homelessness in King County presented information regarding the One Night Homeless Count, as well as providing a status update at the halfway point of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

- The One Night Count was down by 11% from 2010, but still counted over 8,000 people on the streets, in shelters or transitional housing, including 2,442 people on the streets.
- The 10 Year Plan to end Homelessness is in the process of conducting a mid-term review. Block discussed the six topics that the committee is addressing in its mid-term review. The list of six topics and the schedule for the discussions of the topics are attached to these meeting notes.

#### **Protection Order Advocacy Program ~ Prosecuting Attorney's Office**

Sandra Shanahan, David Martin, and Tracy Orcutt from the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPAO) presented information regarding the advocacy program developed and promoted by the King County PAO.

- The KCPAO held a Protection Order Summit looking for ways to make the system more effective. What emerged from these sessions was the need for a standardized, multi-jurisdictional response. There was also a desire to immediately focus on the items that would have the most effect for the least investment.
- The KCPAO developed in a checklist that can be customized for a specific jurisdiction and includes the minimum amount of information needed for filing of a protection order. The checklist and informational packets are attached to these meeting notes.

#### **Competency Process ~ Amnon Shoenfeld**

Amnon Shoenfeld, Director, King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division was originally asked to present information regarding competency processing bills that were being considered by the Washington State Legislature. The bill of interest had not matriculated from committee, so Mr. Shoenfeld gave a high level overview on the differences in felony and misdemeanor competency processes.

- Two handouts are attached to these meeting notes that illustrate the felony versus misdemeanor competency processes as well as the difference in misdemeanant processing before and after the passage of 2SSB 6214 (effective 3/1/1999).

### **Mental Health Courts ~ Judge W. Gregory and Judge A. Harper**

Judge Willie Gregory, Seattle Municipal Court, and Judge Anne Harper, King County District Court presented about their respective mental health courts, comparing and contrasting the two programs and the populations they serve.

- Judge Gregory reported that Seattle Municipal Mental Health Court serves about 500 people a year using a team approach that includes crisis intervention, treatment and housing services. Individuals are initially contacted at the King County Jail by a coordinator who screens and refers individuals to the program.
- The most common charges seen in Seattle Municipal Mental Health Court are theft, trespass and assault. Most individuals involved in the court have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues.
- Judge Harper reported that King County Regional Mental Health Court sees individuals at the King County Courthouse in Seattle, the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent and the District Court Courthouse in Issaquah. She reports that about 65% of the individuals involved in Regional Mental Health Court are charged with felonies and about 50% are competency evaluations.
- The Regional Mental Health Court has a capacity of 186 individuals for 2011 and is expanding to include all cities in King County except Seattle. Expansion is expected to be complete in June 2012.

### **Other Committee Business**

- Vice-Chair Dan Satterburg presented a plaque and thanked immediate past Chair Ed Sterner for his years of service to the Regional Law Safety and Justice Committee.
- King County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Steve Strachan introduced himself to the Committee. Chief Deputy Strachan began with the King County Sheriff's Office in January 2011 and is the second in command to Sheriff Sue Rahr. He was most recently the Chief of Police in Kent, Washington.